
DECCAN ODYSSEY

“MAHARASHTRA WILD TRAIL”



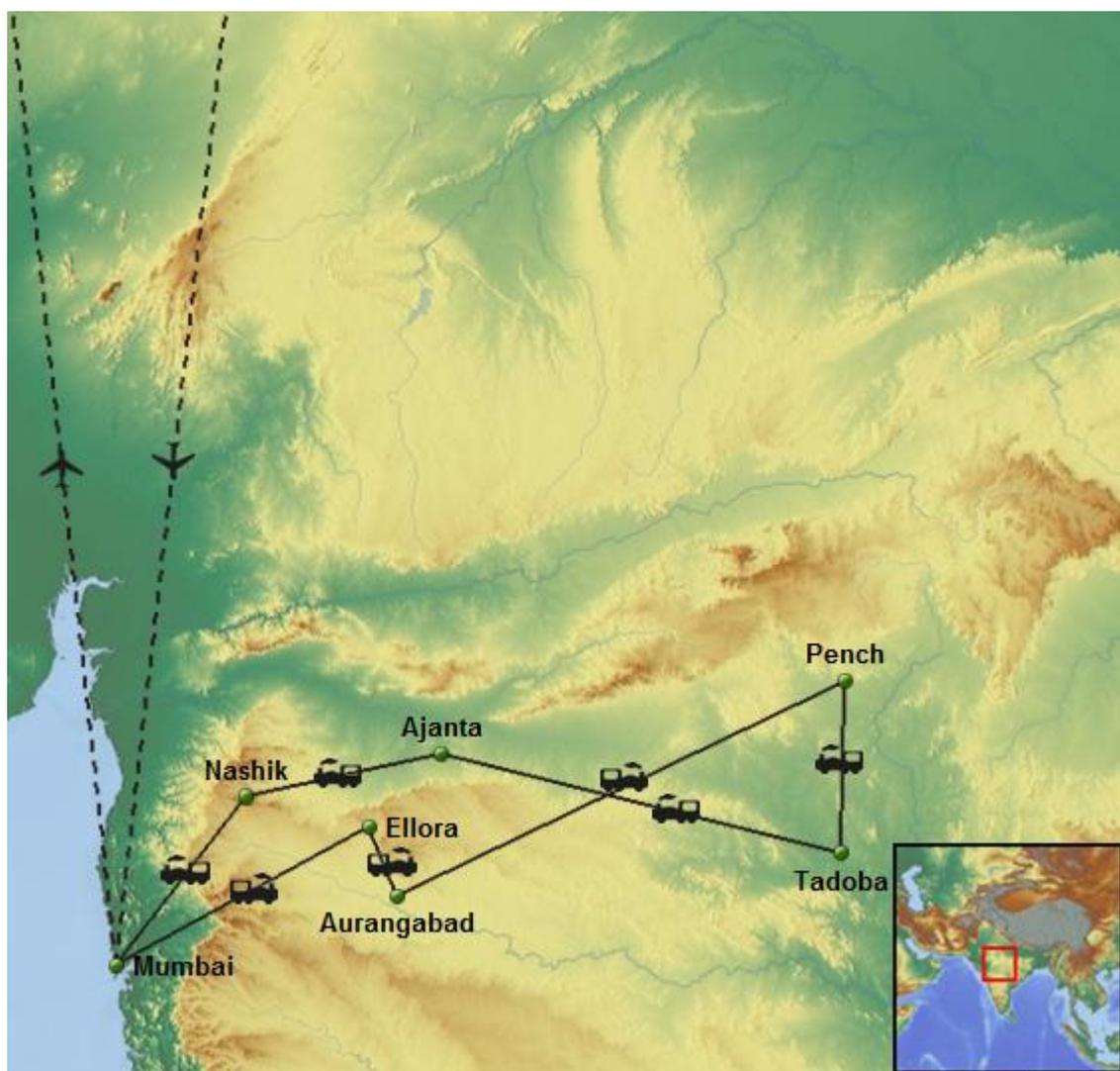
Over a billion people, several hundred dialects, 29 states, and a cultural diversity that baffles the mind and cannot be put in words...Each of India's states - and the uncountable villages within- has a distinct history, cultural markers and allure. It is a land of a thousand untold stories.



Between destinations... journey within and without...

ROUTE MAP

Route: Mumbai - Ellora Caves - Aurangabad – Pench (Ramtek) – Tadoba – Ajanta – Nashik - Mumbai





Between destinations... journey within and without...

ITINERARY

DAY 1: MUMBAI BY FLIGHT

Arrive at Mumbai. You will be met and assisted by a Secrets of India's representative who shall handover your travel documents and transfer you to train station to complete the check-in formalities.

Early this evening, assemble at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at approximately 1530 hours to complete the registration process and check in formalities for your *Maharashtra Wild Trail* journey, as you receive a traditional Indian welcome and enjoy a refreshing welcome drink.

After completion of all formalities, you will be shown to your delightful cabins. As you settle in, the Deccan Odyssey shall depart Mumbai for Aurangabad.

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Dinner

DAY 2: ELLORA CAVES BY TRAIN

As you enjoy breakfast, the Deccan Odyssey arrives at Aurangabad, from where a scenic drive takes you to the Ellora Caves, carved into the side of a basaltic hill 30 km from the city.

The finest specimen of cave-temple architecture in India, the site encompasses 34 rock-cut shrines representing Buddhist, Jain and Hindu art dating from the 4th to 5th century AD. The 12 caves to the south are Buddhist, the 17 in the centre Hindu, and the 5 caves to the north are Jain. The most remarkable is the Kailash temple, meant to be a replica of Shiva's celestial abode on Mt. Kailash. It is the best example of rock cut architecture and an engineering marvel.

Visit the exceptional Ellora Caves, a World Heritage site.

Return to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 3: AURANGABAD BY TRAIN

After relaxed breakfast, disembark for sightseeing of Aurangabad city. Aurangabad itself has deep Mughal influences and there are several monuments of note here; the Daulatabad Fort, Bibi-ka-Makbara and the city's 52 gates, each with its own history, amongst them.

Start the city tour by visiting Bibi-ka-Maqbara. A replica of the Taj Mahal in Agra, it is the mausoleum of Dilras Banu, the beloved wife of Aurangzeb. Referred to as the 'Taj of the Deccan', the monument was constructed by Prince Azam Shah, her son

By late afternoon, back on-board the train to relax for some time



Between destinations... journey within and without...

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 4: PENCH (RAMTEK) BY TRAIN

The Deccan Odyssey arrives at Ramtek and drive to Pench Tiger Reserve. This Kipling country covers the Seoni and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh. The Pench tiger reserve is a dry deciduous forest of predominantly teak trees and as such supports a rich and diverse array of wildlife. These hills were once known as the Seoni forests and it was here that Kipling chose to locate his story of the wolf boy Mowgli.

Comprising of 758 sq. kms out of which a core area of 299 sq km is the National Park and 464 sq km the buffer area of southern Indian tropical moist deciduous forest mixed with tropical dry deciduous teak bearing forests and dry mixed deciduous forest. With the three types of forest a diversity of fauna abound within this natural system.

Enjoy morning and afternoon game safaris in the park.

Tiger is the main cat species of the park present in good numbers and sightings have become increasingly common lately. Commonly seen wildlife is chital, sambhar, nilgai, wild boar, and jackal. Other wild animals found are leopard, sloth bear, wild dog, porcupine, jungle cat, fox, striped hyena, gaur, chowsingha and barking deer.

There are more than 170 species of birds including several migratory ones. Some of them are peafowl, jungle fowl, crow pheasant, crimson-breasted barbet, red-vented bulbul, racket-tailed drongo, magpie robin, lesser whistling teal, pintail, shoveler, egret and herons.

Later, back on-board the Deccan Odyssey for brunch

In the afternoon, back to Ramtek station to go aboard the luxury train, Deccan Odyssey

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5: TADOBA BY TRAIN

Arrive into Chandrapur station for Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, located in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra is the oldest national park in the state. It was declared a Project Tiger Reserve in 1993. Tadobais arguably one of India's most exciting Tiger reserves, a forest that used to be famous as a favourite of shikari's or hunters. Dominated by teak forest and bamboo, it's a rugged landscape comprising cliffs, caves, marshes, perennial lakes and boulder strewn streambeds that cater to a host of biodiversity

The first half of the day is for a wildlife safari inside Tadoba National Park.

The reserve is bursting with life and animals like the tiger, leopard, sloth bear, hyena, jackal, wild dog, blue bull and sambar inhabit the reserve. Crocodiles are another highlight of the reserve.



Between destinations... journey within and without...

Tadoba is also an entomologist's paradise - 74 species of butterflies have been recorded here. 195 species of birds have been recorded including three endangered varieties. Scenic treks with interesting wildlife sightings are assured at Tadoba and it is rightly called 'The Jewel of Vidharba'.

The park is open for visitors throughout the year. Excursions are permitted only by daylight i.e. sunrise to sunset from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on all days except Tuesday, when the park is closed. Vegetation and insect life is at its best with the onset of rains in mid-June. Because of the dense growth of plants and grasses, animals are not easily sighted in this season Official guides are compulsory for all excursions.

Enjoy lunch at the forest lodge where the naturalists will interact with you narrating their admirable work in tiger conservation.

Return to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6:

AJANTA CAVES

BY TRAIN

The Deccan Odyssey arrives at the Jalgaon station this morning from where, after breakfast on board, you will disembark and drive to the Ajanta Caves, another World Heritage site and an architectural marvel of its time. The 30 rock-hewn Buddhist caves at Ajanta have been masterfully carved and are adorned with sculptures and paintings of Buddhist religious art, depicting universal pictorial art and are known to depict the fusion between Buddhist and Hindu faith.

Lunch will be on board the Deccan Odyssey.

The rest of the day is going to be at leisure. Simply relax in the comforts of the luxury train.

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 7:

NASHIK

BY TRAIN

Deccan Odyssey reaches the holy city of Nashik this morning. Munch your breakfast onboard and then disembark to enjoy a stroll along the Godavari Ghats. Observe different Hindu rituals being performed at the Ghat.

Further, walk through the market set by the Ghats. Right from vegetables to cow dung cakes, lentils to dried seafood, everything is sold in the market.

Later, drive towards Grover Zampa vineyards and take a tour into the one of the finest Indian wine producing vineyards. Have a look at the vines lined up with Chenin, Chardonnay and Shiraz grapes.



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The tour gives you an insight of the ancient methods- ‘méthode traditionnelle’ that are still used for preparing the best sparkling wines in India. The sommelier at the vineyard will serve you from the finest collections of white, red, rose and sparkling wines. Pair your favorite wine with some delicious food.

After enjoying your lunch, get back to the Deccan Odyssey. Deccan Odyssey leaves for Mumbai.

Dinner on board

Overnight: Train
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 8:

MUMBAI

BY TRAIN

Early this morning, after breakfast, you will disembark at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Railway Station, Mumbai.

Bid farewell to the Deccan Odyssey as your royal passage through the grand vistas of India comes to an end.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note venue of meals & timings of sightseeing's would be subject to change as per Indian railways norms.



Between destinations... journey within and without...

Departure Dates

Month	Dates	
May 2017	06	13

**Rates are available on request from Guidepost Rail Tours
valid for May 2017**

Inclusions

- Accommodation in Deluxe cabin/Presidential suite with attached bath
- All meals including tea, coffee and mineral water
- Transport for sightseeing in deluxe coaches
- Monument entry fee to all palaces, museums & parks
- Still camera fees
- Service tax of 4.50%

Notes

- Deccan Odyssey does accommodate children but we ask parents to be mindful of the sophisticated adult atmosphere we endeavor to maintain.
- One child up to 5 years of age shall be allowed free of cost in the deluxe cabin, subject to sharing of the double bed with parents. This is subject to availability of double bed at the time of booking.
- For families, with a child between 6-12 years of age, or with two children with one child below 5 years and another between 6-12, we recommend the presidential suite which has a double bed in the bedroom and can be shared with child below 5 years and a sofa cum bed in the living room which can accommodate the older child. In this case, the child/children will be accommodated free of cost.
- In case of two children between 6-12 years of age travelling with their parents, you will have to take 2 cabins. The first child pays 25% of the adult fare and the 2nd child will have to pay 50% of the adult fare. One of the parents will have to be present with the child/children